

That which is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing comprising:
specifying a requirement for a part to be produced;
generating a recipe for production of said part conforming to said requirement;
5 identifying a vendor capable of producing said part according to said recipe; and
executing said recipe.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying said vendor comprises creating said vendor.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying said vendor comprises selecting said vendor.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising monitoring the manufacture of said part.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein generating said recipe comprises:
identifying a physical characteristic of said part;
determining the part specifications of said part;
15 identifying at least one machine capable of producing said part;
identifying at least one tool capable of producing said part on said machine; and
determining a production process for creating said part exhibiting said physical
characteristic.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein identifying at least one machine capable of producing
20 said part comprises identifying a plurality of machines capable of producing said part, and
identifying at least one tool capable of producing said part on said machine comprises
identifying a plurality of tools capable of producing said part on said machine, and wherein
the method further comprises

determining at least one effective combination of one of said plurality of machines and one of said plurality of tools, wherein said effective combination is capable of producing said part.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein determining at least one effective combination of one of said plurality of machines and one of said plurality of tools comprises determining a plurality of effective combinations, and further comprising identifying one of the plurality of effective combinations as a combination for use in producing said part.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein said at least one machine is capable of carrying out at least part of said production process and said at least one tool is capable of carrying out at least one part of said production process.

9. The method of claim 5 further comprising determining an effective machine setup.

10. The method of claim 5 further comprising accessing a database comprising machine data and tool data.

11. The method of claim 3 wherein selecting the vendor comprises:

accessing a vendor database having vendor data associated with a plurality of vendors;

selecting an effective combination of said recipe and one of said plurality of vendors.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein identifying the vendor comprises selecting the vendor, and selecting the vendor comprises:

accessing a vendor database having vendor data associated with a plurality of vendors;

selecting an effective combination of said recipe and one of said plurality of vendors.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprising maintaining said vendor database.

14. The method of claim 11 further comprising providing said recipe to one or more of said plurality of vendors.

5 15. The method of claim 4 wherein said monitoring comprises monitoring the production of the part.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said monitoring comprises receiving communication from a computer network.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein said monitoring comprises receiving communication from a telephone network.

10 18. The method of claim 1 further comprising publishing said recipe, receiving a plurality of bids to carry out said executing said recipe from a plurality of vendors, selecting one of said plurality of vendors to carry out said executing said recipe.

15 19. The method of claim 7 further comprising publishing said recipe, receiving a plurality of bids to carry out said executing said recipe from a plurality of vendors, selecting one of said plurality of vendors to carry out said executing said recipe.

20. The method of claim 1 further comprising inspecting said vendor and, if said vendor meets predefined standards of capability of producing said part according to said recipe, certifying said vendor.